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On the question of franchises Mr. Phillips gives expression to some sensible views worthy of attentive consideration. Thus: "Franchises should be so granted as to insure the fullest and most immediate control by the people. . . . When a price is paid in consideration of a franchise it should always be in form of a percentage of gross receipts instead of a sum which is given and received as full payment. . . . In other words, the public should never part with the ownership of a franchise. When a disposition is made of it other than operation by government employ  s, the transfer should be by a lease which expressly states the right of the people, at any time, after reasonable notice, to revise its provisions or terminate it entirely. But all control of public facilities for transportation by individuals or corporations implies an imperfect state and organization of society." It is usually admitted that the power which confers a franchise can take it away again after satisfying the equities of the case, but it is not so generally understood that the people have a right to a permanent share in the profits of corporations trading on public franchises. This point is the refore exceedingly well put. How to limit the power of monopolies and make them servants instead of masters of the people is a serious problem, which we fear the author does not dispose of very satisfactorily. Most serious thinkers will approve such quotations as the following: "It is sound public policy to encourage industry and the accumulation of wealth. Those who are lazy, improvident and wasteful should suffer the natural result of bad conduct. But at the same time we should create the same checks to prevent an unscrupulous and inordinate use of the money-making power that we have already placed on the misuse of physical power." What those checks should exactly be is just the point on which these pages do not enlighten us.

Mr. Phillips is evidently a close and original thinker, but he does not take us far enough to enable us to see our way out of the wood of economic mystery. The book would also have been the better for a considerable boiling down. One wearies in this practical age of endless discussions of first principles.

## II.

### THE REFORMATION IN GERMANY.

THE sixth volume of Dr. Philip Schaff's Church History\* has been issued in advance of the fifth, which will, in due course, make its appearance. The subject of the sixth is the Reformation in Germany, which is treated very fully and in a strictly historical and judicial spirit as befits a scholastic work. The spirit of the author towards the Roman Catholics is shown in the following extract from the first chapter, which is rather inexplicably entitled "Orientation," but which is in fact an introduction to modern church history: "In many respects the Roman Church of to-day is a great improvement upon the Medi  val Church. She has been much benefited by the Protestant Reformation, and is far less corrupt and far more prosperous in Protestant than in Papal countries. . . . By her venerable antiquity, historical continuity, visible unity, centralized organization, imposing ritual sacred art, and ascetic piety she attracts intelligent and cultured minds; while the common people are kept in ignorance and in superstitious awe of her mysterious authority, with its claims to open the gates of heaven and hell and to shorten the purgatorial sufferings of the departed. For good and evil she is the strongest conservative force in modern society, and there is every reason to believe that she will last to the end of time." Of Luther's youthful life the author says:

\* "History of the Christian Church." By Philip Schaff. Vol. VI. The German Reformation, Charles Scribner's Sons.

"Luther had a hard youth, without sunny memories, and was brought up under stern discipline. His mother chastised him for stealing a paltry nut till the blood came. . . . The hardships of Luther's youth and the want of refined breeding show their effects in his writings and actions. . . . He was not a polished diamond, but a rough block cut out from a granite mountain and well-fitted for a solid base of a mighty structure."

In the general scope of this book we do not find that the author introduces us to new principles or even facts. Probably the ground has been so well trodden that fresh discoveries are impossible. What we do find is a very careful and systematic arrangement of historic material, with a copious production of authorities and titles of works consulted. The author touches only lightly on the corruptions of the Mediæval Church and the Protestant martyrology of this period, but gives a very clear and succinct view of the sacramentarian controversies. The period covered is from the publication of the ninety-five Theses to the Diet of Augsburg in 1530.

### III.

#### A PLEASANT BOOK OF TRAVEL.

A REMARKABLY graphic and entertaining volume of sketches of Eastern travel\* comes to us from the pen of M. Louis Viand, a French naval officer, who writes under the *nom de plume* of "Pierre Loti." It is unpretending in appearance, and somewhat unprepossessing by reason of its lengthy memorial preface, in memory of the friend for whom the sketches were written, so that the casual reader is in danger of passing it by and thus missing a rare treat. If he read but a single page of these charming and beguiling descriptions, however, he will be sure to read all. Each picture is brought out with bold, swift touches, and in tones as soft and glowing as those of an Oriental sunset. The natural vivacity of a Frenchman prevents him from ever becoming monotonous. Descriptions of natural scenery are charmingly intermingled with bits of real life, and the whole constitutes a beautiful piece of mosaic, each gem adding brilliancy to its neighbor and in itself complete and satisfactory.

We quote from an early section:

"At the top of a high hill on a rainy day. A void and silence. Below my feet the green slopes go down towards the deep sea. I had gone up there on duty, having been sent by the officer in command to do some surveying, and verify the bearings of a certain bay. The seaman in charge of the chronometers was helping me in the work, and we had carefully laid out our copper instruments on a rock carpeted with delicate ferns. Other and higher mountains towered above us—gloomy heights and hanging greenery; from time to time gray mists came down from them, drenching us as they swept by. Silent and motionless we bent our heads to the showers, waiting for gleams of light on the horizon to enable us to take the bearings of the distant headlands, which again and again were shrouded in fog."

\* \* \* "A few strokes of the oar brought us across the bar of this miniature river. The sea lay spread before us like a waste of green mother-of-pearl highly iridescent, and having a light of its own. The nosegays I had bought of the children smelt stronger than ever in the darkness as the earth gradually receded with its various intruding odors. We must have left a sweet wake behind us on the water, a trail of the scent of tuberoses."

\* From "Lands of Exile." By Pierre Loti. Translated from the French by Clara Bell. Revised and corrected in the United States. New York: William S. Gottsberger.